

ROCHESTER'S IMPENDING STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Part III – Requirements of the New Permit

The new storm water permit requirements will be organized, as required, into six functional categories, known as minimum control measures (MCMs). A general description of the requirements for each MCM follows:

1. **Public education and outreach** -distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted storm water runoff can have on water quality.
2. **Public participation** - providing opportunities for citizens to participate in program development and implementation, such as encouraging participation in public hearings, in advisory groups, or in water quality protection activities.
3. **Illicit discharge detection and elimination** - developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system; this includes developing a system map and informing the community about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste.
4. **Construction site storm water runoff control** - developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land.
5. **Post-construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment** - developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment areas once construction is completed. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas, like wetlands, or the use of structural best management practices such as storm water ponds, grassed swales, or porous pavement.
6. **Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations** - developing and implementing a program to prevent or reduce pollutant runoff from municipal operations. This program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques.

The City will be obligated to identify the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be implemented for each of the MCMs listed above. These BMPs can include education, maintenance, control techniques, system design, and engineering methods. Each BMP must identify what measurable goals will be used to assess permit compliance, the estimated implementation timeline, and the party responsible for implementing each BMP. All of this information will be compiled into the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The final compilation of BMPs must:

- ☞ Be designed and managed to minimize the discharge of pollutants,
- ☞ Be in compliance with the Clean Water Act and with the MS4 permit,
- ☞ Identify how Rochester will manage, operate, and maintain its storm sewer system and areas discharging to it, and
- ☞ Address federally listed impaired waters and “Total Maximum Daily Load” pollutant allocations.

The City's existing storm water management plan (SWMP) will not be replaced by the SWPPP. It will continue to provide the “vision” for a citywide storm water management

system. In other words, the SWMP will provide the context in which site-specific conditions are evaluated for each development proposal. Additionally, the existing water quantity and quality modeling data will continue to be used as the baseline for site-specific design parameters.

Several other permit requirements that the City will be obligated to meet include:

- ☞ Ongoing record keeping,
- ☞ Holding at least one annual public meeting & collecting program feedback,
- ☞ Evaluating the SWPPP annually,
- ☞ Modifying the SWPPP based on public input and SWPPP evaluation, and
- ☞ Preparing an annual report to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Next month, plans for funding the new program will be addressed.

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“Protecting water quality is everybody's business.”